



League of Women Voters
of La Plata County

VOTER

Volume 11, Issue 6

Sixty-six Years Serving La Plata County
80 Members

February, 2012

www.lwv.org

www.lwvlaplata.org

www.lwvcolorado.org

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February Calendar

Great Decisions –Promoting Democracy

Tuesday, January 31, Thursday, February 2, 11:45 – 1:45 pm

Program Room 2, Main Floor

***Moderator: Curt Johnson**

**Reminder: Moderators moderate! These are participant discussions, not lectures...*

[Click here](#) for the flyer for this year's topics and dates.

Contact **Pat Chatfield**, 247-1692 or patchwork@gobrainstorm.net for information. We are out of books locally; go to www.fpa.org to order one directly.

Republican Caucus – February 7

(Click here for your precinct caucus location <http://www.laplatarepublicans.org/>)

Board meeting, Thursday, February 9, 2-4 pm, Trish Pegram's home (All members welcome.)

Peace-Building When Blood and Bones Cry Out

Thursday, February 9, 7 pm

130 Noble Hall, FLC

Speaker: Dr. John Paul Lederach, Professor of International Peace-Building,
University of Notre Dame

Life Long Learning Series of Professional Associates

The brochure for the Winter/Spring 2012 Life Long Learning Series is posted [here](#).

Great Decisions –Mexico

Tuesday, February 14, Thursday, February 16, 11:45 – 1:45 pm

Program Room 2, Main Floor

Moderator: John Lyons

Geologic Diversity and Mineral Resource Extraction Activities in Four Corners Region

Thursday, February 16, 7 pm
130 Noble Hall, FLC
Speaker: Jeff Brame, Brame GeoScience, Durango
Life Long Learning Series of Professional Associates

LWV Legislative Lowdown

Saturday, February 25, 9:30-11:30 am
Durango Public Library Program Room
Light refreshments will be served

Our state legislators, Sen. Ellen Roberts and Rep. J. Paul Brown, will fill us in on their legislative priorities for the 2012 session and answer all your questions. Mark your calendar!

Great Decisions –Cybersecurity

Tuesday, February 28, Thursday, March 1, 11:45 – 1:45 pm
Program Room 2, Main Floor
Moderator: Gail Harris

Highlights of Spring Calendar

Democratic and American Constitution Party Caucuses – March 6

Dems: Click on <http://www.laplatadems.org/> and Voter Information to find your precinct caucus location.
American Constitution Party: Click on <http://www.americanconstitutionparty.com/> for voter info.

Hydraulic Fracturing in La Plata County and Colorado 101

Monday, March 12, 9:30-11:30
Pine River Valley Bank Community Room, upstairs, 1701 Main Avenue

Privatization Study Presentation and Consensus

Thursday, April 19, 1:30-4 pm
Venue: Pine River Valley Bank

2012 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 4-6:30 pm
The Rochester Hotel

A Big Thank You to All of You who Renewed Your Membership!
We lost a few of you but look forward to gaining members, as we always do, in an election year. We're 80 members strong.



Articles of Interest

Privatization Study

Our privatization study committee, Nadine Ancel, Herb Brodsky, Missy Rodey, Ellen Park, Sheree Volrab, Trish Pegram, ex officio, and Marilyn Brown, facilitator, has agreed to focus on topics of interest to our local community. Our first step will be to interview county, city and water officials to identify examples of privatization within La Plata County. We hope to focus on examples of privatization of water (provision, treatment, wastewater, etc.). Because the number of articles on the broader topic, in particular, the overwhelming number produced by the LWVUS study committee, our committee is recommending that you read one article this month *Privatization: The Public Policy Debate* and review the Glossary, both of which are posted on our website [here](#) along with links to the other articles. We plan only one member meeting, the consensus meeting, Thursday, April 19, 1:30-4 at Pine River Valley Bank.

Public Address System Challenge

Many thanks to the following members who answered the call for donations to match our generous anonymous donor's grant in support of the new Samson public address system. We covered our costs.

Suzanne Becker
Marilyn Brown
Pat Chatfield
Deanna Collins
Barbara Cristol

Grace Deltscheff
Ann Flatten
Marilyn Holland
Jane Marentette
Ross Park

Jill Patton
David Rich
Marilyn Sandstrom
Julie Ward

LWV Action and Advocacy

The Pine River Valley Bank, the exceptional goodies and tea, combined with our new public address system and our projector, coalesced to produce a productive meeting for the 20 members and guests. Thanks to Ellen Park for writing up the results of our discussions called *LWV Advocacy and Action: What are our Priorities?* [here](#). We are still open for suggestions for national studies or updates. The deadline for

submission of our ideas to LWVUS is March 1; but send them to a board member by February 9. Each suggestion needs to be accompanied by a short study scope.

LWVCO Legislative Conference January 23

Unfortunately, Sally Bellerue, in her role as co-chair of the LWVCO Fracking Study, was the only one of us to attend Legislative Conference at the state capitol this year. We are expecting a videotape or DVD of the meeting, which we will make available. However, in the meantime one of the speakers, James Griesemer spoke about the Denver University Strategic Issues Panel report on *Rethinking Colorado's Government*. The report is available online at <http://www.du.edu/issues/>. You may recall that Denver University has been an active force in studying state government issues and presenting solid solutions over the years. The Legislative Conference will likely be written up in the next LWVCO Voter.

Status of Health Care Progress in La Plata County

Jill Patton, our health care liaison, has provided two good articles on where we stand here in La Plata County on health care access improvements and other health care issues. Find her article on *Update on Health Care Issues* here and her second article on *CIVHC – CENTER FOR IMPROVING VALUE IN HEALTH CARE* [here](#). [If the link in the first article to the article on CIVHC doesn't work, click [here](#) to go there directly.] Thanks to Jill, Enid Brodsky and Missy Rodey for keeping us informed on what's going on locally.

Second Anniversary of U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

Perhaps you caught Nadine Ancel's recent letter to the editor in The Telegraph or The Durango Herald (maybe also the Pine River Times). Here's a [link](#) to it on our website and it's also on our Facebook page. The gist of it was: be sure you understand who is behind the incredible amount of political advertising we are seeing and will continue to see this election season and what their agendas are. The Citizens United decision relaxes long-standing restrictions on campaign contributions and in some cases allows donors to remain anonymous.

Are Ballots Public Records?

Those of us who heard County Clerk Tiffany Parker speak at our holiday potluck know of her concern and that of all CO county clerks about the move to consider ballots public records open to inspection by the public. The concern stems from the fact that due to CO's overlapping special districts which result in many different ballot styles, it would in some situations be possible to identify the voter behind the ballot. Our LWV didn't feel we could take on our own investigation of this issue but the Montrose County LWV has generously agreed to let us benefit from two programs they are presenting on the issue. Their January Voter has an excellent summary of their first meeting and additional relevant articles on pages 2-3. Click [here](#) and on Newsletter, then January Voter. We'll link to the follow-up article next month.

IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation

The Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN), released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on May 9th in Abu Dhabi, assesses existing

literature on the future potential of renewable energy for the mitigation of climate change. It covers the six most important renewable energy technologies, as well as their integration into present and future energy systems. It also takes into consideration the environmental and social consequences associated with these technologies, the cost and strategies to overcome technical as well as non-technical obstacles to their application and diffusion. Review the report [here](#).

2011 Accomplishments

Last year was a pretty good year for us! Here a list of what we did in chronological order...

- Reviewed redistricting process
- Co-sponsored with Durango Library eight Great Decisions discussions
- Co-sponsored Legislative Lowdown with Durango Library
- Sponsored LWV Ski Day at Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort
- Organized Durango City Council Forum
- Presented Amanda Saunders of 4CORE to discuss the La Plata County and City of Durango Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)
- Presented County Commissioner Bobby Lieb as guest speaker at annual meeting at The Rochester Hotel
- Presented testimony at various EPA hearings
- Organized a Community Conversation on Health and Health Care in La Plata County
- Sent five delegates to state convention in Fort Collins
- Were named CO League of the Year at state convention
- Heard Stephanie Huss's experiences at CO Capital Conference in Washington
- Set up Facebook page and Twitter account
- Celebrated Ross Park reaching 5-year mark as LWV webmaster
- Organized two school board forums and one ballot issue forum
- Organized study materials on Federal Role in Education and pulled off successful consensus meeting
- Co-sponsored 4-session discussion series on water issues with Durango Library moderated by Professor Dennis Lum
- Enjoyed delicious edibles and an interesting talk by County Clerk Tiffany Parker at holiday potluck
- Awarded Mary Barter special kudos for hard work on education study
- Purchased Samson public address system

Email Charter

Here are some email etiquette [rules](#) that most of us would benefit from if implemented. See what you think...

Unsubscribe: Please let me know at marilbrown@aol.com if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.